



WEST ASHFORD RURAL DISTRICT, KENT

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE
LOCAL AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. MARSHALL, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

ARTHUR H. HAYES, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., S.R.N.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

F.H.D. BODDY, M.A.P.H.I.

MEAT INSPECTOR

G.R. POWELL, A.R.C.H., M.Inst.M.

CLERK

MRS. A. JUKES to 1st July, 1968

MRS. J. CROCKER from 24th June to 13th September, 1968

MISS P. AVERY from 23rd September, 1968,

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

MR. G.T. HOLTUM - CHAIRMAN

MRS. W.S. SWAFFER - VICE-CHAIRMAN

MR. J.C. GRAY
MR. M.H. PYM
MAJOR A.T. PALMER
(Ex officio)

MR. C.E. SMITH
MRS. V.M. HALE
MR. R.D. PREECE
(Ex officio)

WEST ASHFORD RURAL DISTRICT, KENT

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and Chief
Public Health Inspector for the year 1968

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1968.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 13,100 which was an increase of 1,550 over that of the previous year.

Live Births and Birth Rate

The number of live births was 221 which was an increase of 26 over that of the previous year and the crude birth rate was accordingly 16.9 this becomes 18.1 after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor which is computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution and was higher than that of 16.9 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

Four stillbirths were registered and the rate of 18.0 per 1,000 total (live and still) births was higher than that of 14.0 for England and Wales.

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

Two deaths were registered due to:-

Raised intracranial pressure)	
Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida	)	4 months
Cerebral Haemorrhage)	
Prematurity	)	- 6 days.

The infantile mortality rate was accordingly 9.0 compared with that of 18.0 for England and Wales.

The hard core of causes of Perinatal Mortality (i.e. stillbirths and infant deaths under one week of age) are prematurity, asphyxia and atelectasis, birth injuries and congenital malformations and the chief maternal factor is toxæmia of pregnancy.

Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

This rate was nil, as there were no maternal deaths due to Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion and is a reflection of the high standard of modern obstetric practice.

Total Deaths and Death Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 273 (108 M. 165 F.) and the crude death rate was 20.8; this high rate was due to the naturally higher mortality in Hothfield Hospital which accommodates chronic sick patients and from which deaths are assigned to the District when patients have been resident for more than six months. The Registrar General's Comparability Factor which is computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution takes this into account and the adjusted rate was 9.6 which was lower than that of 11.9 for England and Wales.

The majority of the deaths were from natural causes amongst the aged, namely Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular lesions of the Nervous System of which there were 148 out of the total of 273 deaths.

Ischaemic Heart Disease (Coronary Thrombosis & Coronary Atheroma) was the cause of 58 of those deaths. These were in the following age-groups; 1 between 45 - 54, 5 between 55 - 64, 18 between 65 - 74 and 34 over 75 years. The great majority of deaths were over 65 years, those in the age group over 75 years having been the highest. Although these figures are small for any valid inference, the fact that the majority of deaths were in old age conforms with the usual pattern and would seem to indicate that it is primarily a degenerative or senile disease.

Cancer, as invariably in previous years, was the second highest cause of deaths, 46 having been registered in the following age-groups: 1 between 35 - 44; 9 between 45 - 54; 5 between 55 - 64; 16 between 65 - 74, and 15 over 75 years of age. The mortality increases with old age, pari passu with the fact that the medical advice is commonly sought too late.

Cancer of the Lung was the cause of 13 (11M. 2F.) of those deaths in the following age-groups; 3 between 45 - 54; 3 between 55 - 64; and 7 between 65 - 75 years of age. Generally, the majority of deaths from Cancer of the Lung are in earlier age-groups than those of other forms of Cancer, and the fact that the ratio of deaths predominates in males, would seem to indicate that the inhalation of tobacco smoke is a precipitating factor amongst those who are predisposed.

Cancer of the Breast caused 5 deaths in the following age-groups; 2 between 45 - 54; 1 between 55 - 64; 1 between 65 - 74 and 1 over 75 years. Having regard to the fact that the disease is insidious, Cancer of the Breast in comparison with other forms of Cancer, is not difficult to diagnose, and it is reasonable to assume that the patients, many of whom are in early age-groups, seek medical advice too late.

Cancer of the stomach caused 4 (4M.) deaths in the following age-groups; 1 between 35 - 44; 1 between 55 - 64; 1 between 65 - 74 and 1 over 75 years of age.

The other causes of deaths were miscellaneous and there was no exceptional mortality.

There were no deaths due to Infectious Disease.

Infectious Disease

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year:-

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	6
Measles	...	...	...	3
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2
Dysentery	...	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1
Food Poisoning (causal organism Salmonella Typhi-murium)	...	...	...	1

Tuberculosis

Two new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified - the patients being aged 67 (M), 59(F). There were two deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis both patients being over 55 years.

Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968

The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968 came into force on the 1st October, 1968, and, as requested by the Minister of Health, copies of these new Regulations and also copies of Sections 47 to 49 of the Act of 1968 were sent to all medical practitioners in the area.

The Infectious Diseases (Contd.)

Under this new Act the following Infectious Diseases are now notifiable:-

Acute Encephalitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Acute Meningitis	Paratyphoid Fever
Acute Poliomyelitis	Plague
Anthrax	Relapsing Fever
Cholera	Scarlet Fever
Diphtheria	Smallpox Fever
Dysentery	Tetanus
(amoebic or bacillary)	Tuberculosis
Infective Jaundice	Typhoid Fever
Leprosy	Typhus
Leptospirosis	Whooping Cough
Malaria	Yellow Fever
Measles	

The following diseases are now no longer notifiable:-

Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	Erysipelas
Acute Primary Pneumonia	Membranous Croup
Acute Rheumatism	Puerperal Pyrexia

Cases or suspected cases of Food Poisoning are still required to be notified.

In conclusion, it may be stated that the Public Health of the District was satisfactory throughout the year, and I would wish to take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest in and support of the Department and also the staff for their co-operation and very efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Central Public Health Officer,
14, Church Road,
Ashford, Kent.

Tel: No: Ashford 24411

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

FOR 1968

Area:- 39,453 acres

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

The Resident Population	...	...	...	13,100
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books	....	...	...	4,850
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£388,498
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£1,372

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

West Ashford Rural District is predominantly agricultural in character - there are only a few light industries. The Council has been a progressive Housing Authority, having built 766 post war dwellings and altogether own 935 dwellings. Generally social conditions are satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>West Ashford Rural District</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
<u>Live Births</u>	221	113	108	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	16.9 (Adjusted Rate 18.1)	16.9
(a) Legitimate	209	108	101			
(b) Illegitimate	12	5	7			
<u>Stillbirths</u>	4	2	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	18.0	14.0
(a) Legitimate	1	1	-			
(b) Illegitimate	3	1	2			
<u>Total live and stillbirths</u>	225	115	110			
<u>Deaths</u>	273	108	165	Death Rate per 1,000 resident population	20.8 (Adjusted Rate 9.6)	11.9
<u>Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion</u>	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 live births	-	Not Available
<u>Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age</u>	2	2	-	Rate per 1,000 live births	9.0	18.0
(a) Legitimate	2	2	-	Rate per 1,000 live births (legitimate)	9.5	
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil	
<u>Perinatal Mortality (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week of age)</u>	5	3	2	Rate per 1,000 total births	22.2	25.0
<u>Illegitimate births per cent of total live births</u>					5.4%	

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WEST ASHFORD RURAL DISTRICT

DURING 1968

				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
ALL CAUSES				108	165
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	4	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, bronchus	...	...	...	11	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	-	5
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	...	...	...	-	1
Leukaemia	...	...	...	1	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	...	...	...	13	9
Diabetes Mellitus	...	...	...	-	1
Avitaminoses, etc.	...	...	...	-	1
Anaemias	...	...	...	-	2
Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	...	...	...	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	...	...	...	4	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	...	...	...	-	3
Hypertensive Disease	...	...	...	1	7
Ischaemic Heart Disease	...	...	...	20	38
Other forms of Heart Disease	...	...	...	6	11
Cerebrovascular Disease	...	...	...	13	33
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	3	8
Influenza	...	...	...	1	-
Pneumonia	...	...	...	10	25
Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	...	...	2	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	1	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	...	...	...	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	-	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	1	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	...	...	...	1	-
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	...	...	...	1	3
Congenital Anomalies	...	...	...	2	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	...	...	...	1	-
Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions	...	...	...	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	3	3
All other accidents	...	...	...	-	2
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	...	...	...	1	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1968

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>			<u>Deaths</u>		<u>Total Cases on Register</u>		
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	M.	F.	
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	47	12	9
1 ...	-	-	-	-	-			
5 ...	-	-	-	-	-			
15 ...	-	-	-	-	-			
25 ...	-	-	-	-	-			
35 ...	-	-	-	-	-			
45 ...	-	-	-	-	-			
55 ...	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	2	-	2	-	-

There were no deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis of patients who had not been notified as suffering from that disease

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Year of Birth	Triple Antigen	Diphtheria Tetanus	PRIMARY Small- pox	Tetanus	Measles	Polio- myelitis	Triple Antigen	RE-INFORCING		Tetanus	Measles	Polio- myelitis
								Diphtheria Tetanus	Small- pox			
1968	56	-	-	-	1	18	-	-	-	-		-
1967	75	7	85	-	5	104	2	2	-	-		-
1966	4	1		-	9	12	25	66	-	-		-
1965	1	-	-	-	14	3	7	21	-	-		-
1964	1	-	-	-	13	-	2	3	-	-		-
1961 - 1963	-	-	-	2	68	-	23	84	5	4		116
1952 - 1960	-	2	-	5	1	-	4	5		19		2
TOTAL	137	10	85	7	111	137	63	181	5	23		122

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE - JULY 1968

<u>FILMS TAKEN</u>			<u>Change from last Survey</u>	<u>ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS</u>			<u>INACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS</u>			<u>CANCER OF LUNG</u>		
<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
500	682	1,182	- 115	Nil	Nil	Nil	7	7	14	Nil	Nil	Nil

Public Health Department,
2, Elwick Road,
Ashford, Kent.

To the Chairman & Members of the Rural District Council of West Ashford,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my sixteenth annual report.

The work of the department was steadily pursued throughout the year.

The routine slaughterhouse duties were carried out in an able manner by the Meat Inspector who was relieved by Mr. Boddy for evening and weekend duties on alternate weeks and for holiday periods. 100% inspection and carcass stamping was carried out. Although the throughput was 4,000 carcasses less, the increase in swine kill caused inspection hours to go up.

The pulverisation plant is nearly completed and it is hoped to commence operations early in 1969. The public health transport vehicles were increased by one Shelvoke & Drewry Compressor vehicle and mobile machinery was purchased to serve the new process.

A start has been made to clean the countryside of dumped car bodies and unwanted heavy household goods.

The pilot scheme - instituted by the Ministry of Transport - for the provision of blocks of conveniences on trunk routes has suffered much from vandalism during the year and as a temporary measure the conveniences at Hothfield were closed from dusk to dawn. This action, though nullifying the use for which they were provided, has halted damage.

WATER SUPPLY

The mains supply for the district is distributed by the Mid Kent Water Company. Collection is from the North Downs at Charing by means of artesian wells, and is stored in high level reservoir tanks and distributed by gravity.

One small mains addition was completed during the year.

Statutory supply undertaking	Bacteriological Exam.			Chemical Exam.	
	No.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sample	Sat.
Pumping Station.					
(Raw	74	74	-	26	26
(
(Treated	75	75	-	3	3
Houses	26	26	-	5	5
Private sources piped to dwellings	5	2	3	-	-
Other private sources	2	-	2	-	-

Analyst's report on Mid Kent water is as follows:-

<u>Chemical Examination</u>	<u>Parts per million</u>
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.00
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.00
Nitrate Nitrogen	4.3
Nitrite Nitrogen	None
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 27°	0.00
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	108
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	Carbonate 108
	Non-carbonate 4
	Total 112
Total solids (dried at 180°C)	246
Free Carbon Dioxide as CO ₂	0
Residual Chlorine	0.15
pH	7.4
Iron	None

Bacteriological Examination

Number of colonies developing on Nutrient Agar per Millilitre:-

1 day at 37°C	0
3 days at 22°C	9

Bacteria of indication enumeration

Organisms of the coliform group	0 in 100 ml.
Streptococci Faecal	0 in 100 ml.

Remarks

The chemical analysis indicates a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply.

The bacteriological condition of the water is very good.

The following table shows the number of dwelling houses in each parish; those supplied with water from public and private mains; and those known to be without a mains supply of any sort. The latter obtain water from springs, wells or by the storage of rainwater in underground tanks

	No. of Houses	Est. Pop.	No. of houses with Piped Supply		Houses with Other Supplies
			Public	Private	
Bethersden	471	1300	471	-	-
Charing	926	2650	923	-	3
Egerton	293	750	279	12	2
Great Chart	314	900	311	3	-
Hothfield	278	800	277	-	1
Kingsnorth	937	2010	937	-	-
Little Chart	102	300	102	-	-
Pluckley	346	1000	346	-	-
Shadoxhurst	313	700	313	-	-
Smarden	362	1150	362	-	-
Westwell	276	1000	271	4	1
TOTALS	4611	12550	4592	19	7

DRAINAGE, SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The work of laying sewer mains to Shadoxhurst and Kingsnorth is almost completed. When finished 400 properties will be disconnected from cesspools and septic tanks.

Parish	Sewered	Proposed Schemes
Bethersden	1	-
Charing)	1	-
Charing Heath)	1	-
Egerton	1	-
Great Chart	1	-
Hothfield	1	-
Kingsnorth	1	-
Little Chart	-	1
Pluckley	-	1
Shadoxhurst	1	-
Smarden	1	-
Westwell	-	1
TOTALS	9	3

Of the areas without a main drainage the village of Pluckley situated mainly on Wealden clay causes most concern with drainage problems. The nature of the soil is such as to permit little or no soakage or purification and results in a network of ditches being heavily polluted with effluent. After periods of warm dry weather these can be offensive and a nuisance.

School Sanitation

All schools in the district are Primary Schools.

Some of the village schools still have toilet facilities so sited that in order to reach them pupils and staff have to walk across playgrounds in all weathers.

The canteens at the schools are managed and maintained in a satisfactory manner.

Public Conveniences

No new conveniences have been constructed.

Due to gross vandalism the Hothfield conveniences are closed from dusk to dawn. To combat wanton damage stainless steel pans are to be installed. When the work has been completed 24 hour opening will be re-commenced.

Two villages have public conveniences and in others, external public house amenities are made available to the general public. The Council pays a part of the upkeep for the use of the facilities.

Cesspool Emptying

This essential service was maintained effectively with less back-log of waiting periods. The Council's tanker was also used for flushing out new sewer lengths and emptying small plants. With the working of a two man team more work was undertaken and the Road Act regulations observed.

All cesspool contents are disposed of at the A.U.D.C. plant at Bybrook - on repayment -. This method ensures a safe method of off-loading.

The following table shows the number of private and council properties emptied, and payments made to the Contractor.

	Cesspools Emptied	£.	s.	d.
Emptied by Contractor	887	1774.	0.	0.
Emptied by Council Vehicle	1847			

Private Cesspools/Septic Tanks

Village	Total Cesspools	Not Emptied	Emptied Once	Emptied Twice
Bethersden	146	81	48	10
Charing	245	95	74	52
Egerton	169	81	62	17
Great Chart	81	36	31	8
Hothfield	55	28	16	7
Kingsnorth	272	95	125	77
Little Chart	61	28	22	5
Pluckley	164	63	49	28
Shadoxhurst	155	58	61	29
Smarden	152	84	45	15
Westwell	144	38	68	24
TOTALS	* 1644	687	601	276

* This includes 126 cesspools on the automatic register. This list is only for cesspools where there is a continual nuisance due to bad drainage.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

Slaughterhouses

100% inspection of all carcase meat and offals was maintained throughout the year.

Cystercercis Bovis was not found in any carcase and it would appear That this condition is dying down. Over 13 tons of carcase meat and edible offal was condemned for disease.

Hygiene was at a high level though persuasive methods still have to be employed to enforce workmen to observe the wearing of hats etc. During the year, regulations came into force prohibiting the use of wiping cloths for carcase cleaning. This ensures that no two carcasses are wiped with the same cloth thus decreasing chances of cross infection. Methods of cleaning down now permitted are (1) High Velocity water jets, and (2) Use of disposable paper towels the latter being discarded after use.

Late evening and weekend killing is still permitted causing much overtime. Over £1,945 was recovered from slaughtering charges.

DETAILS OF FOODSTUFFS OF ALL TYPES CONDEMNED
DURING 1968

(Figures in brackets refer to 1967)

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed and inspected	1967 (3172) 3040	(1438) 1610	(926) 976	(31693) 24302	(15387) 19201	(53116) 49129
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	(-) -	(2) 2	(3) 5	(40) 27	(13) 10	(58) 44
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	(744) 795	(612) 774	(7) 21	(3588) 4232	(2328) 2772	(7279) 8594
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	(23%) 26%	(42%) 48%	(1%) 2.75%	(11%) 17.5%	(14%) 14.5%	- -
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	(1) 0	(1) 0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	(10) 24	(10) 24
<u>CYSTICERCOOSIS</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	NIL	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	NIL	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	NIL	-	-	-	-	-

CONDEMNED AT SLAUGHTERHOUSE

Cattle

Part Carcase	Arthritis	15
3 Heads and Tongues	Actinomycosis	74

Cows

2 Carcases	Oedema/Pneumonia	725
1 Head and Tongue	Actinomycosis	23

Calves

2 Carcases	Fevered	100
1 Carcase	Immaturity	15
1 Carcase	Abnormal Colouring	24

Pigs

1 Carcase (Sow)	Injuries	350
5 Carcases (Pig)	Pyæmia	560
1 Carcase	Pneumonia	65
1 Carcase	Spinal Abscesses	9
11 Carcases	Emaciated	90
5 Pigs	Abscesses	57
6 Part Carcases	Abscesses	221
13 Legs	Abscesses	87
20 Legs	Injuries	104
8 Pigs Legs	Arthritis	55
125 Heads	C.B.	1568
24 Heads	T.B.	305

Sheep

8 Carcases	Fevered	362
14 Carcases	Emaciated/Oedema	303
1 Carcase	Leukaemia	50
1 Carcase	Moribund	25
1 Carcase	Arthritis	20
1 Carcase	Multiple Abscesses	30
36 Legs	Arthritis	253
3 Legs	Bruising	13
1 Neck and Loin	Abscesses	4
2 Forequarters	Abscesses	10

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Meat condemned in slaughterhouses	2	9	1	1
Edible Offal condemned	10	13	2	16
Total condemned in slaughterhouses	13	2	3	17
Condemned in Store: Weevil infested peanuts	24	10	2	9
Condemned in Shops: Mixed Foodstuffs (Deepfreeze failure)			3	0
Total Foodstuffs Condemned	34	14	0	26

Knackers Yard

No. of Licensed premises 1
No. of routine inspections 12

The above plant is small, modern and well-run. It gives a valuable service to the farming community providing an outlet for their sick and old animals and a clearing house for dead stock after veterinary inspection and authorisation for removal. Large refrigerators keep the animal foodstuff until required. The premises work in conjunction with an animal food shop in the neighbouring district.

Supervision of Food Premises

Food premises are listed under a variety of headings. Each required a different form of inspection and various Acts and Regulations have to be borne in mind.

The following table indicates the number of the various types of food premises in the area.

Licensed premises including clubs	31
Cafes and restaurants	12
Butcher shops	6
Fruit and vegetable shops	3
Grocers and general shops	36
Creamery	1
Confectioners	12
Food factories	1
Bakehouses	2
	<hr/>
	104
	<hr/>

Licensed Premises

57 visits were paid to public houses and clubs during the year.

The standard of cleanliness was good. Bars, cellars and washing facilities were well maintained.

The informal notices served in 1967 resulted in work of improvement being started.

One public house is still awaiting modernisation resulting from an outstanding notice.

Restaurants and Restaurant Kitchens

Number of inspections 11

No notices were served for dirty or insanitary premises. No complaints were received of bad service or dirty utensils. One large coach refreshment room was closed. This building is being re-opened as a better quality premises.

Bakehouses

Only two bakeries remain in the district. Both are privately owned and well maintained. Local inhabitants can still enjoy bread baked locally.

Snap inspections of "rounds" vehicles showed no evidence of dirt or dust and there was no infringement of the smoking regulations.

Ice Cream Premises

Number of registered premises: 49

There are no ice cream producers in the district. Sales of ice cream - all of which is pre-wrapped - is made from premises already registered as food shops. Ice Cream from bulk containers is only served at hotels as part of their meal service.

MILK SUPPLIES

Number of Registered Distributors of Milk: 13
Number of Registered Dairies: 3

The area still enjoys a daily milk rounds service.

Most village grocery shops are registered for the sale of milk as a service to customers because, except for the "round", dairymen offer no other facilities.

Twice during the year summonses under The Food and Drugs Act were taken against A Milk Pasteurising and Bottling Supplier for milk contamination.

- a) Chocolate/Biscuit wrapper in a $\frac{1}{2}$ pint school milk.
Fined £25, and costs £15.15. 0.
- b) Dirty milk
Fined £40, and costs £15.15. 0.

Both cases showed there appeared to be a lack of inspection of the bottles from the washing unit to the bottling plant. The firm in question pleaded guilty on both occasions.

Sampling by County Sampling Officers

The following details are of samples taken within the rural district and submitted to the Public Analyst. The figures were furnished by the Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council, which is the responsible authority for this purpose:

Milk	20
Tinned meats, meat, fish, fish and meat pastes	1
Sugar, sugar confectionery, flour confectionery, chocolate products, cereals	1
Tea, coffee, cocoa, beverages, minerals, cordials	3
Jams, preserves, honey, jellies	2
Dried fruit, raw fruit, vegetables, tinned fruit and vegetables	9
Pickles, sauces, vinegar, condiments	2
Drugs, medicines	3
Beer, wines, spirits	3
Miscellaneous	3
	<hr/>
	47
	<hr/>

All the above samples were satisfactory

HOUSING

Grand Aid: House Improvements

Grand Aid improvement continued during 1968 at about the same numbers as in previous years except there has been a marked fall off of Discretionary Grants since the institution of Standard Grants.

The latter do not require the submission of plans through a practising architect, are less exacting in requirements and often gives owners a better return for their outlay.

Approvals during 1968

	<u>O/Occ.</u>	<u>Rented</u>	<u>Amount Appro'</u>
Discretionary Grants (3)	2	1	£1025.
Standard Grants (13)	12	1	£3135.

The following table shows the number of properties improved and completed annually since 1958:

Year	Discretionary Grants Completed	Amount Given	Standard Grants Completed	Amount Given
1958	22	£6542.16. 3.	-	-
1959	17	£4336. 9. 5.	-	-
1960	14	£4045. 3. 0.	-	-
1961	30	£10525. 1. 0.	9	£1019. 7. 6.
1962	26	£9382.13. 6.	12	£1075. 0. 0.
1963	18	£6724. 5. 0.	11	£906. 4. 9.
1964	14	£3392.10. 0.	17	£1026.10. 0.
1965	9	£3454. 6. 9.	19	£3178. 8. 6.
1966	8	£3089.10. 0.	16	£2864.16. 6.
1967	3	£1200. 0. 0.	20	£4169. 1. 6.
1968	1	£400. 0. 0.	22	£4112.17. 9.
Totals	162		126	

Average cost per House £328.

Average cost per House £145.10. 0.

Breakdown of amenities gained during 1968:

Baths	21
Inside W.C.'s	21
Hand basins	21
Hot water systems	21
Food stores	22
Bathrooms	21
Septic Tanks	6

Inspections

Inspections on complaint (dwellings)	65
Re-inspections on service of notice (dwellings)	112
Informal Notices served (dwellings)	16
Informal Notices complied (dwellings)	13
Statutory Notices served (dwellings)	-
Statutory Notices complied (dwellings)	-
Houses inspected Hsg. Act 1958/33. 16	1
Undertakings Accepted	1
Houses demolished	-
Total visits and inspections to all classes of property	<u>2570</u>
Office interviews	<u>174</u>

Council Housing Programme

Council Houses finished during 1968 were those remaining from previous allocation. No housing programme was submitted during 1968.

Old peoples bungalows have proved an unqualified success and the tenants appreciated the friendly Warden service.

No. of families rehoused: 62

No. of families on Housing List at December 31st, 1968 73

House Erection

By Local Authority	25
By private enterprise	19

RODENT CONTROL

Operator:

Mr. D. Button

The service of eradication and survey proceeded throughout the year without untoward troubles.

The sewers proved remarkably free of rats with only one small reservoir of infestation remaining at Charing.

The following table gives a summary of the work carried out in 1968:

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	Business Premises
Total number of properties	12	4074	326	136
<u>Number of properties inspected:</u>				
Notification:	1	59	6	10
Survey or otherwise:	11	47	25	18
<u>Infestations found:</u>				
Rats:	11	60	31	18
Mice:	4	17	30	25
Infestation treated (Completed treatments only).	12	77	31	14
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	30	103	64	26
Number of "Block Control" treatments carried out 1 of 8 1 of 10				

In addition to rats and mice, the department was called to deal with the following types of pests:-

Bees/Wasps: 52 Flies: 3 Ants: 4 Beetles/Cockroaches: 2 Fleas: 4

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Staffing

1 working Foreman/Driver.
4 Loader Drivers - including spare.
7 Loaders.
1 Bulldozer Driver/Fitter.
1 Driver Shovel Loader.

Vehicles

2 Shelvoke & Drewry Pakamatics.
2 Shelvoke & Drewry Fore & Aft Tippers.
1 Bulldozer.
1 Shovel Loader.

At no time during the year was there a full quota of men on the public cleansing staff. The hard core of men have worked hard and well, but some new recruits have proved inefficient, bad time keepers and not generally suited to this type of work. The letting of Stanhope Estate has proved a strain, for although the Council enlarged the vehicle fleet, the manning of same has proved difficult.

The pulverising machinery is almost ready to commence working, the new depot and paper baling building are nearly complete. The modern machinery, new depot and tip should be in use in early 1969.

Salvage is still collected with refuse rounds and there was an income from this source of £2,144. The collection teams were each paid 4% on returns which averaged out at £1.10. 0. weekly throughout the year.

The following table shows the receipts from salvage (figures in brackets refer to 1967).

	Tons	Cwts.	£.	s.	d.
Mixed waste papers and cardboard	(229) 233	(2½) 7½	(1927. 2019.	14. 7.	3.) 4.
Metals, rags etc.			124.	13.	7.
Total			(2071. £2144.	8. 0.	2.) 11.

ANNUAL MILEAGE - REFUSE VEHICLES

<u>1968</u>	<u>665 YKP</u>	<u>DKL 668C</u>	<u>HKL 799D</u>	<u>NKR 61F</u>
January	602	538	460	-
February	682	572	437	-
March	929	690	601	-
April	513	413	356	-
May	644	574	498	-
June	512	704	644	259
July	-	587	555	563
August	248	473	700	661
September	301	301	595	552
October	326	446	792	659
November	625	-	589	529
December	196	326	465	446
	<u>5,578</u>	<u>5,624</u>	<u>6,692</u>	<u>3,669</u>

TOTAL - 21,563

CARAVAN SITES

a) Private Sites (Residential) 2

Conditions at these sites are satisfactory. Both are full throughout the year.

It has been found that quite a number of couples retire to caravans to spend their lives in peaceful country surroundings. This ideal is shattered with the oncoming of infirmity and diseases associated with the aged, when applications for rehousing have to be considered.

b) Gypsy Site (Council)

The Ninn Lane site was closed by the Council in 1968 when all families had been rehoused or left the area. During the year it has become apparent that there is a need for a permanent gypsy site in the area. This should be sited nearer the urban area than the original one, to enable users to find work easier and for the children to be better assimilated in the education establishments. As a short term policy the Council has re-applied for planning permission to re-open the old site for up to six families.

FACTORY ADMINISTRATION

The Factories Act gives a joint control of factories to the H.M. Inspectors of Factories, Local Authority Inspectors and in certain instances H.M. Inspectors of Alkalies, etc.

Since the commencement of Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, offices in factories are now under the Factories Inspectorate. A case could now be made out for local authorities to give up their only remaining responsibility to the Factories Inspector or be given additional responsibilities to make inspection worthwhile.

Prescribed Particulars of the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1937

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Reg.	Number of		
		Inspection (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are enforced by Local Authority.	5	7	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	34	54	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found = Nil.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES
ACT, 1963

No new premises were registered during 1968. Routine inspections were carried out to buildings already on the Register.

Class of Workplace	No. of premises registered at end of year	Inspections made
Offices	9	4
Retail shops	24	23
Wholesale depts. and warehouses	-	-
Catering establishments open to public	2	7
Fuel storage depots	-	-

Class of Workplace	No. of persons employed		Totals
	Females	Males	
Offices	8	9	17
Retail shops	34	19	53
Wholesale depts. and warehouses	-	-	-
Catering establishments open to the public	16	5	21
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-

SHOPS ACTS ADMINISTRATION

Inspections under this Act were carried out in conjunction with visits made under the provision of other Acts.

There are no large stores or supermarkets in the area, mostly being small village shops, the majority run as family businesses with only the minority employing additional staff.

In conclusion I would like to record my thanks and appreciation to the Council for their continuous support and interest during the year and to the staff for their loyal co-operation at all times.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR H. HAYES

Chief Public Health Inspector.

